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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

On November 18, the Windsor Regional Library opened its doors to welcome residents of the community to a bright, spacious and attractive building. The Library now houses a larger book, video and DVD collection, as well as additional computers, and has increased the hours the library is open to the public. The official opening celebrations were held on November 27, at 2:00 p.m.

Exciting Fall events at AVRL included:

- Children's author Frances Wolfe visited the Berwick and Annapolis Royal Libraries on September 25 reading from her new book *One Wish*. The event was sponsored by CFUW.
- Broadcaster, storyteller, author and Mr. Nova Scotia Know-It-All Bruce Nunn was at the Kentville Library on October 6, sponsored by Nimbus Publishing.
- Mermaid Theatre staff delighted the young people of Berwick with puppet-making workshops at the library on October 16, sponsored by CFUW.
- Folklorist, musician and author Clary Croft visited the Wolfville Memorial Library on October 17 and the Annapolis Royal Library on October 20, sponsored by Nimbus Publishing.

- Children's author Sylvia Gunnery shared her knowledge with two groups of young people at the Wolfville Memorial Library via writing workshops, sponsored by CFUW.

AVRL's Wolfville Memorial Library received funding once again from Coca Cola Canada for a *Share the Stories Reading Circle* project. This literacy program, facilitated by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation, matches up: "children learning to read with grownups who love to read; children who love to read with grownups whose first language is not English; children learning to read in French with grownups who read in French". AVRL had 26 pairs of participants. Funds totaled $2,500, which will be used to purchase children's books, magazines, computer programs, dual language books, craft supplies and books, as incentives and honorariums for presenters.

Community Access Program (CAP)

A Fall/Winter Youth Internship Program will see youth working in Windsor, Wolfville, Kentville and Port Williams for a 12 week period, ending February 28, 2005. A conference session was held on November 13 for CAP sites in Annapolis and Digby Counties. This session was designed to promote discussion on the present and future state of CAP.

Equipment

The new Windsor Regional Library has two additional public access computers. The public access computers are new with a total of six computers now available for use. A wireless router will be installed to allow library patrons to have access to the Internet connection if their laptops have wireless capabilities. This access will be available even when the Library is closed. This service is being used in two other branches in the region.

Both bookmobiles have new 1xRT communications capabilities. This technology allows for access to the Internet at higher speeds. This upgraded speed covers the minimum required to run the new Unicorn software coming in 2005.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

Friday, October 22 was Patron Appreciation Day at the Ingonish Library. Thanks to the generosity of John Williams, a local restaurant owner, and Mary Ellen Anthony, an Ingonish resident - lunch, sweets, tea and coffee were served to everyone who dropped by on the Friday afternoon.

Patron Appreciation Day, Ingonish Library.

Once again the McConnell Library participated in the Celtic Colours International Festival by hosting a Celtic Conversations Lecture Series. The Series was held during the lunch hour on October 12-15 and a variety of artists were warmly welcomed. The first Celtic Conversation showcased the beautiful voice of Scottish Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis. Ms. Fowlis performed in a number of events during Celtic Colours with her lively band Dochas. As guest speaker in the Library, she chose to explain and demonstrate the different Gaelic work songs. A few members from the audience were able to help her along with some of the choruses that were familiar to them. It was exciting to see Gaelic speakers sharing the language. The second Celtic Conversation *Telling Our Story in Song* was hosted by Calgary-born singer/ songwriter James Keelaghan. James gave a glimpse into his songwriting process as well as the history behind some of his songs. The third day saw the musical duo of Jim Payne and Fergus O'Byrne keep the energy level high with music and stories from their native Newfoundland. The final session was a fiddle demonstration by the Master of the Metis *Fiddle* John Arcand. The toe-tapping crowd kept time to jigs and reels and thoroughly enjoyed his unique style of fiddle music.

During the fall, CBRL offered a variety of fun, interesting and informative adult programs at the McConnell Library. The fall schedule started with an evening of scrapbooking. The mother/daughter team, Elaine and Sarah-Marie McDonald brought in a large collection of their own scrapbooks, as well as a few unfinished projects to help demonstrate the craft. Registration was limited to 25 people, so that everyone had the opportunity to try scrapbooking hands-on techniques. This popular program was offered twice, once at the beginning of October and again in November, with both sessions filling quickly.

Julie Fowlis, from North Uist, sings Gaelic work songs during the Celtic Colours Conversations Series.

Shown here on the far right, Manitoba 's John Arcand demonstrates the Metis fiddle style.

Another program that keeps people coming back for more is *A Tour of the American Southwest: Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Colorado*. This program is a three part travel adventure series presented by Rannie Gillis and Ann MacLean. Their slides and stories are from a motorcycle trip the two friends took last spring, touring the southwestern United States. Other sessions offered included *Preparing Your Car for the Winter* presented by

Mike MacNeil, a mechanic with Canadian Tire; and *The Big Ships - From Stem to Stern* a session on planning a cruise ship vacation presented by Marjorie Sheasby, a Master Cruise Counsellor with Carlson Wagonlit-Sydney Travel.

CBRL held it's sixth annual Library Card Month 2004 (LCM) drive during October to register residents of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and Victoria County for a free library card. The goal for LCM this year was to register 2004 members during October. The final total number of registrations was 2297, of which 54% were new members.

CBRL held one of its largest book sales to date from November 18 to the 25 at the McConnell Library.

Harolyn Gorley telling a story to children at the Glace Bay Library during the Halloween Party.

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

Public Library Week

As part of this year's festivities, CEHRL was pleased to welcome 94 delegates to the annual conference of the Nova Scotia Library Association, held at the Debert Hospitality Centre (October 22-24). The theme *Carving Out Our Future* and the keynote address by Dr. Richard Goldbloom, honourary chair of the *Read to Me! Program*, set the stage for a weekend of learning, networking, relaxing and celebrating.

BLAST

The Truro group, formerly known as the Teen Friends of the Library, has a new name! The creation of Michael Manchester, the Library's new teen programming coordinator, *BLAST* stands for *Bitchin' Library Activities for Students in Truro*. As might be expected, the full name raised a few eyebrows among older folk, but *bitchin'* is teen code for awesome, cool. Members hosted *Library Fright* on the Friday evening before Hallowe'en. Seventeen teens enjoyed crafts, stories and snacks in a spooky setting, courtesy of some carved pumpkins and dry ice. BLAST's next project is decorating some of the Library windows for Christmas.

***BLAST* members Carmen and Diana help create a stain glass look for the door leading to Youth Services, Truro Branch Library.**

MR. OCTOBER
Looking through a copy of the Library Foundation's commemorative bookmobile calendar, Mr. Ken Spares was amazed to see a picture of himself and his father taken in 1952. Ken remembers the picture being taken, but had never seen the photograph which was published in Truro's *Daily News*. A resident of the East Hants community of Lower Selma, Mr. Spares continues to use the library. Recently, he met with Caroline Doyle, a representative of the Library Foundation, and Harry Sullivan, a reporter with today's *Truro Daily News*.

Left to right: Harry Sullivan of the *Truro Daily News* interviewing Caroline Doyle and Ken Spares.

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

A $1,500 Coca-Cola *Share the Stories* grant was recently awarded to CURL based upon the library's proposal to purchase French books for kids. The Amherst Branch has especially noticed a demand from the public for French materials for children, since French Immersion programs are now being offered at local schools. This is the second time CURL has received the grant. Two years ago, it was successful in its application to purchase a books for babies collection.

Reading Round-Up Days at the Pugwash Co-Op held in October raised over $300 for the Pugwash Library Capital Campaign. For *Reading Round-Up Days*, customers were asked to round up their order to the nearest dollar with the extra change going to the library capital campaign. The Pugwash Co-Op offered to do the *Round-up* again at the end of November and also volunteered to organize a toy bingo for the campaign. A Used Book Sale was held in September to raise funds for the campaign and a fashion show is being planned as a future fundraiser.

In September, the Advocate Branch benefited from a new paint job and furniture rearrangement. Sponsored by the Advocate and Area Development Association, the new paint job brightened up the library and furniture rearrangement has made the branch look more spacious and inviting. A readers corner has also been set up at the far end of the Library with a chair and some artwork donated by a library patron.

The Amherst Branch of the Royal Bank donated funds to the Amherst Library for the purchase of children's books. The money was raised through a used book sale held by bank staff during the summer. The funds will be used to purchase books nominated for the 2004-05 Hackmatack Award.

October was Library Card Month in Cumberland County. Special membership drives were held throughout the month, including membership booths at a local Ramblers hockey game and the Amherst High School cafeteria. A series of membership PSAs were recorded for CKDH radio. Those who registered for a library card or renewed their membership during October were eligible to win prizes donated by local businesses. These promotions resulted in 191 new library card memberships which means 22% of Cumberland County residents have library cards.

Kids enjoying themselves at CURL's slumber party.

Author William Bell during his visit to CURL.

A *Read To Me!* Jamboree was held in the Amherst Branch to promote the Library' s *Babes in Bookland* laptop storytime. A Teen Advisory Board was established to help the Library determine what types of reading materials and programs teenagers want. Teen Advisory Board members have volunteered during CURL's membership drive, and will help with special projects such as the Christmas parade and puppet shows.

CURL had 683 people attend programs at library branches during Public Library Week. Newspaper coverage was extensive and CKDH radio played PSAs about library events and urged people to join the library. Highlights of Public Library Week included CURL's second annual *Locked in @ the library* slumber party, author visits with popular, young adult author William Bell and a presentation by Stephen Archibald and Sheila Stevenson from their book *Heritage House of Nova Scotia*.

Nova Scotian writer Sheldon Currie presented an author reading at the Pugwash Village Commission on October 28. Sheldon is the author of several novels, including *The Glace Bay Miner's Museum*, which was made into the movie *Margaret's Museum*. A large and enthusiastic crowd attended and Dr. Currie entertained everyone with his interesting and humourous reading and stories. Special thanks was extended to PARL where Dr. Currie is the Writer in Residence.

Author Sheldon Currie reading at the Pugwash Village Commission.

The Amherst Branch now offers a wireless hotspot which allows patrons to connect to the Internet with their own laptops. Many individuals are using the service in Amherst and others are inquiring about it's availability in other branches. CURL plans to install more hotspots in the near future.

Five staff attended the NSLA conference in October and found the sessions to be very interesting and practical. Staff have recently taken advantage of the teleconferences being offered by OLA and sponsored by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. The graphic novels presentation was informative, as well as the sessions on helping staff deal with change and on serving seniors. Staff have indicated their interest in several other upcoming

teleconferences such as library marketing and creating a successful teen advisory group.

Funding has been approved by HRSDC to hire a Special Events Coordinator on a one year term contract. They will be responsible for helping to organize next year's NSLA/LBANS conference in Amherst, as well as organizing author readings and special events for the Library.

Award winning young adult author Arthur Slade visited Amherst, Parrsboro and Oxford in November. Mr. Slade is the author of *Tribes* and *Dust* and won the Governor General's Award for children's fiction in 2001. Originally from Saskatchewan, this was his first reading in Nova Scotia. Over 300 teens in grades 7-8 enjoyed his witty presentations. The readings were made possible with a grant from the Canada Council.

Author Arthur Slade during a recent reading at CURL.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

Halifax author Joanne Taylor visited the Coady Tompkins Library in Margaree Forks following the launch of her newest picture book *Making Room*. Cape Breton is the setting for both *Making Room*, illustrated by Peter Rankin of Mabou Coal Mines, and *There You Are*. Both books are based on true stories. The illustrations were deemed important enough by Ms. Taylor for the publication of the book to be delayed a year until Mr. Rankin could finish the paintings. Ms. Taylor gave a lively presentation of her three published books (she is also the author of the award-winning picture book *Full Moon Rising*). The reading was attended by Margaree native Ella Ingraham, a friend of Ms. Taylor's family and the inspiration for one of the characters in *There You Are*.

Joanne Taylor reads from her novel *There You Are*.

Shown here on the right, Anne LeBlanc, Library Assistant at the Coady Tompkins Library, greets Ella Ingraham, a native of the Margaree Valley.

ECRL's website **ecrl.library.ns.ca/** has a new look! The graphics are brighter and bolder, and navigating the site has become easier and much more user-friendly. The Queensport Lighthouse on Rook Island, seen from along the road to Canso, highlights the web page.

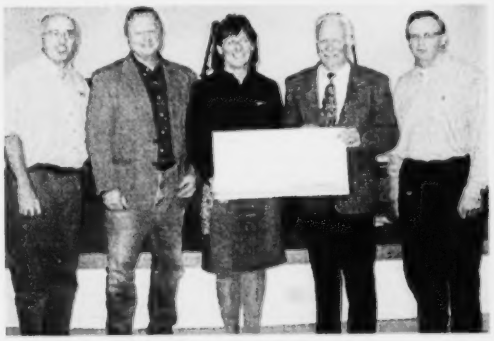
The Port Hawkesbury Library has recently partnered with the Family Place Resource Centres based in Port Hawkesbury and Inverness County to promote reading through a variety of initiatives. These include arranging a special block loan through the Port Hawkesbury Library which will allow the Family Place Resource Centre to rotate this collection among it's rural locations, a six week program being held at the Petit de Grat Library for children and their care-givers which encourages early literacy skills and the love of reading with young children using books, activities, songs and finger play, and a story time hosted by the Inverness play group with Mobile Library Assistant Aurea Gillis during the *Read to Me!* Jamboree.

Renovations have been carried out at the Mulgrave Branch to re-organize the reference and local history/genealogical collection to better present these collections. A new circulation/public service desk was installed, funded as part of the existing partnership between the Town of Mulgrave and ECRL Board in the Mulgrave Headquarters/Branch facility.

Joyce Oliver-Snair, Mulgrave Library Assistant, enjoys her new work space.

ECRL's 3rd annual Share a Book-Build a Community fundraising campaign was launched on October 23 with a *Ceilidh for the Collection* held at the NSCC-Strait Campus. Entertainment was provided by Pat Lamey, Delores Boudreau, Heather Richards and Adam Cooke, local musicians, singers and song-writers, who donated their services for the day. Door prizes for the event were contributed by area businesses. EnCana spokesperson Lori MacLean presented Board Chair Joe Walsh with a cheque for $3,000 and a pledge to match all donations raised during the 5-week campaign.

After the presentation, Lori MacLean, EnCana, poses with 101.5 The Hawk radio sponsor Bob MacEachern, Inverness County Councillor and ECRL Board member Ned MacDonald, Ms. MacLean, Board Chair Joe Walsh and NSCC Principal Bert Lewis.



Sherbrooke Branch Library and historic Sherbrooke Village hosted a reading by Sherbrooke native and author Clary Croft in late October. Sponsored by Nimbus Publishing, the event drew many of Clary's family and friends, as well as and library patrons to the historic setting in the old courthouse. Reading from his latest book, *Nova Scotia Memories*, Clary entertained the crowd with numerous excerpts from the book.

Clary Croft shares his stories in Sherbrooke.

The Sherbrooke *Adopt-a-Library Program* has been operating for several years with great success. Children earn stamps in their reading logs reflecting the number and type of books they read. When they have received 10 stamps, they get a prize from the treasure chest which is kept stocked with books and toys. To create an incentive, library staff designed a contest called *Ticket to ride*. The prize was a ride to school for the winner and one friend in a police car. When the children earned a toy, they also received a ballot for the draw. The contest ran from Sept 22 - Nov 22 and drew a lot of excitement from its younger patrons.

The Port Hawkesbury Library was the third region hosting the Breast Cancer Action Nova Scotia (BCANS) Health Fair, which included displays by Canadian, Provincial and Strait area cancer networks. ECRL staff were on hand to display some of the books that have been donated to the Library by BCANS. This was part of a partnership with Nova Scotia public libraries to promote awareness of breast cancer and the services available to prevent and treat the disease.

Port Hawkesbury Library Assistant Therese Reynolds, third from the left, is flanked by representatives of provincial and Strait Area Cancer organizations.

Halloween was celebrated in style during festivities at ECRL's various branches. Patrons in Margaree Forks were greeted with double smiles by Library Assistant Trina Clary. In Mulgrave, Joyce Oliver-Snair was surrounded by 2 sets of twins-bears and pumpkins-as well as an array of princesses and action heroes! The children were participating in their weekly story hour at the Mulgrave Branch, complete with a walk through Headquarters to gather treats from staff for their Halloween bags.

ECRL's Joyce Oliver-Snair and young library patrons dressed for Halloween!

ECRL was the recipient of a $2,000 donation from Mike Bridges, President of Anadarko Canada, at the LNG Terminal sod-turning ceremony held in Port Tupper on October 28. Guests included Cape Breton-Canso MP Roger Cuzner, Premier John Hamm, as well as other provincial and municipal

representatives. On hand to accept the donation for ECRL were Vice-Chair Malcolm Beaton and Outreach Coordinator Lesley Carruthers. The donation will provide assistance to cover some of the costs associated in upgrading furnishings and equipment in ECRL's genealogical research area located at the regional headquarters in Mulgrave.

ECRL Board and staff wish to extend *Best Wishes and Holiday Greetings* to colleagues in the Regional and Provincial Library System. Once again this year, in lieu of sending Christmas Cards, the Library will be making donations to several local charities.

Halifax Public Libraries (HPL)

Halifax Public Libraries Performance Measures Highlights 2003 / 2004

As the following statistics indicate, HPL had a lot to celebrate in the 2003/2004 time period:

- 2,853,234 people visited Halifax Public Libraries
- 2,313,004 in person and 620,295 visits via the website
- 187,109 people are registered with the Halifax Public Libraries
- 4,298,089 items were checked out and/or renewed, which maintains the average of 12 items borrowed per capita by HRM residents
- 220,571 information questions were asked
- 3,740 programs were attended by 104,073 people
- 266,759 computer bookings were made

Halifax North Memorial Library

In 1964, The Halifax City Regional Library Board received $100,000 from the Halifax Relief Commission to commemorate the 1917 Halifax Explosion. Set up after the explosion, the commission's purpose was to provide pensions and help victims of the explosion with housing, rehabilitation and claims for loss and damage. With the Halifax City Council's support, the commission decided to build a library branch in memory of the victims. Along with a copy of the Halifax Explosion Remembrance book, the Halifax North Memorial Public Library also houses a collection that reflects on the horrible tragedy that occurred on December 6, 1917 and has become much more than a resource centre. The Library is a much-loved centre for the community.

For the first time in it's 40 year history, the Halifax North Memorial Library received a much needed face-lift. On December 6, the day of remembrance for the Halifax Explosion, the Branch reopened and a reception was held with photographs and video footage from CBC on display, along with related collections available for loan.

Book a Computer, A New Service At Halifax Public Libraries

HPL has recently implemented a computer reservation and time control system for its public-use computers. Users can go online to easily and quickly reserve a library computer. In addition, patrons may use the Book a Computer telephone-booking service from any touch tone telephone. A library card is needed to reserve and use HPL's public computer services. Families need to ensure that each of their children has their card handy on each visit, as the family computers may only be used by those holding a children's card. A certain amount of time has been allotted for usage each day, which will help to ensure that everyone has fair access to the library's computer resources. By using Book a Computer, library patrons may locate and book a specific type of computer which best fits their needs at any branch of HPL.

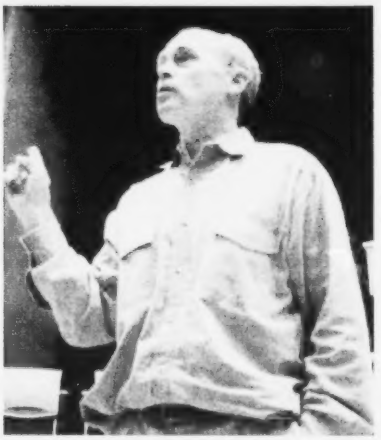
A library card is not required to use *The Find It!* HPL's catalogue computers which provide a chance to search for any library item. However, these computers do not have internet access.

Keshen Goodman and Spring Garden Road Memorial Library users were the first to have access to the Book a Computer services at the end of October. Other libraries will participate in this program after some time has been spent monitoring the service, ensuring that everything is running smoothly!

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

Library Acting Workshop No Walk in the Trailer Park

Veteran actor and director John Dunsworth recently visited the New Glasgow Library Program Room for a meet and greet, and to conduct an acting workshop. Fifteen drama enthusiasts took part in the intense acting workout as Dunsworth put them through acting school basic training. Earlier in the day, he informed and entertained 100 students of the North Nova Education Center for over two hours as he ran through his repertoire of characters and offered his advice on making a career in the theater and film industry. Dunsworth's extensive career in the entertainment industry has lasted over forty years and has given him work in over 50 films, on stage and in radio dramas. Recently, he has gained a new level of popularity as Jim Lahey, the beleaguered trailer park supervisor of the hit television series, *Trailer Park Boys*.



Actor and director John Dunsworth under the lights of the North Nova Education Center drama theater during his talk on making a career in the film idustry.

Actor, teacher, director and author Michael Bawtree recently visited the New Glasgow Library Program Room to read from his newly published young adult novel *Joe Howe To The Rescue*. The grade six students from the Thorburn Consolidated Elementary School thoroughly enjoyed Bawtree's reading, which he performed in the dialogue heard on the Halifax waterfront of the 1830s.

Michael Bawtree poses with a new fan wearing the top hat and cane he used during his presentation.

Don Aker Visits New Glasgow Library

As part of PARL's Public Library Week activities, award winning author and educator Don Aker spoke to a grade 12 class of Canadian Literature students from North Nova Education Center. Aker read from his gritty novel *First Stone* and spoke about how writers come to realize that everyone you meet has their own story to tell and how it has the potential to become fodder for your writing. With some of his best material and themes originating from watching and listening to strangers, he advised the class to be curious about life and always have a writer's notebook close by to jot down ideas as they occur to you.

Don Aker, author of *First Stone*.

Writing Workshops Well Received

PARL's Writer In Residence Sheldon Currie gave the second installment in his Creative Writing Workshop Series at the New Glasgow Library Program Room during Public Library Week. By all accounts, those attending claim Currie's instruction in creative writing is very helpful in moving their writing skills to another level. Coupled with his easy going teaching style and knowledge of crafting a good story, participants in the New Glasgow and Antigonish programs have found themselves motivated to produce plenty of material for Currie to review. To support writers not able to attend the workshop, Currie also gives private, one-on-one consultations. To date, he has met with 20 individuals in 30 sessions on three separate days providing constructive advice and publishing guidance. To explain the entire story of Shedlon Currie and his duties as writer in residence, PARL has constructed a web page devoted to his tenure at **http://www.parl.ns.ca/program/writer>www.parl.ns.ca/program/writer.**

Dr. Jock Murray Delivers Talk

Pictou native Dr. Jock Murray visited the Pictou Library and Innovation Centre on September 22 to deliver his address *Multiple Sclerosis: Recent Advances and Remaining Challenges*. Dr. Murray is a world renowned authority on multiple sclerosis. Recently retired from Dalhousie University, he is in demand as a speaker across North America and in Europe. More than 60 people filled the main floor of the Library to hear Dr. Murray give an informal talk in layman's terms regarding his research into multiple sclerosis.

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

Public Library Week

Public Library Week began with the launch of SSRL's annual *Adopt-A-Book* campaign. To date over 200 books ($6,000) adopted. The Friends of the South Shore Regional Library drew the name of John West, from Pennsylvania and Crescent Beach, as the winner of a fundraising raffle. Mr. West is the proud owner of a lovely framed serigraph by artist J. Thomas Hinton. The Friends celebrated Public Library Week with a cake and juice at the Bridgewater Library. Authors Lesley Choyce, Budge Wilson and Sue Goyette visited the region during and slightly after Public Library Week to talk about their writing to audiences at North Queens School, Riverport Elementary and the Lunenburg Library, respectively. Each of the authors was a delight to host and each gave a great presentation.

Left to right: SSRL staff members Teresa Workman, Sandra Whitman, Cathy MacDonald and Lynn Robart advertise the *Adopt-A-Book Program* with their new *Adopt-A-Book* t-shirts.

An Evening with Ann-Marie MacDonald

It was a dark and stormy night, the MC was stuck in Halifax and much of the audience were stuck in their driveways. However, the first gale of November didn't deter 75 hardy folks from turning out for the Friends of the South Shore Regional Library gala fundraiser November 13. *An Evening with Ann-Marie Macdonald* at the Pearl Theatre in Lunenburg was expected to be a major money-maker and a big finish to the Friends' first year of operation. The audience, described by SSRL Vice Chair Marie Hogan-Loker as "intrepid souls," were treated to a fantastic reading by the personable MacDonald and a feast of Nova Scotia wine and cheese. Many opted to stay the night in Lunenburg rather than brave the dangerous roads. Profits, albeit smaller than anticipated, will go to SSRL's capital campaign.

SSRL's Public Relations Coordinator Teresa Workman (left) and Fundraising Coordinator Peggie Graham (right) were pleased to host author Ann-Marie MacDonald at the Pearl Theatre in Lunenburg on Saturday, November 13.

Glen Murray Golf Tournament Supports SSRL Library

Glen Murray, like most of his NHL compatriots, may not be on the ice much this non-season, but he's still doing good things for the Library. Murray,

a Bridgewater native, a right winger with the Boston Bruins in the 2003-2004 season, is now a free agent. Each summer he makes the trek to Bridgewater for the Glen Murray Invitational Golf Tournament. This year's tournament and sports auction was a big success and, thanks to a $1,000 donation, young readers will have even more books to choose from this winter when there's no hockey to watch.

On the Road Again!

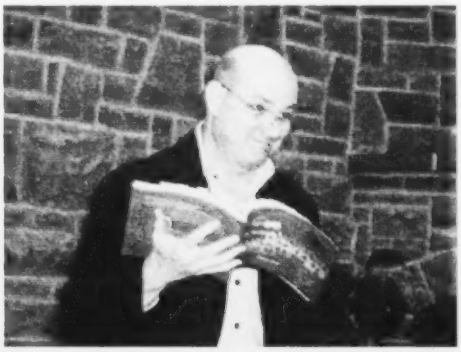
SSRL staff are pleased to show off their snazzy new Mobile Library. The Mobile underwent a complete refurbishment this fall, which staff expect will prolong its life on the road. Borrowers had a chance to see the bus when it returned to service in early December.

SSRL's new Mobile Library!

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

Authors Visit Western Counties

Recently, WCRL received a flurry of visits from a number of well known Canadian authors. Author/folklorist Clary Croft told tales and read from his new book *Nova Scotia Moments* during a program at the Izaak Walton Killam Library in Yarmouth on Thursday, Oct. 21. The evening program was held in conjunction with Public Library Week.



Clary Croft reads form his book *Nova Scotia Moments*.

Tim Wynne-Jones visited the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library on Tuesday, Nov. 2 as part of a tour in celebration of TD Canadian Children's Book Week. Broadcaster, humourist and author Bill Richardson captivated a young audience at the Barrington Library on Saturday, Nov. 13, while, Nova Scotian author Joan Cleveland read from her book *Silver Locket* during a program at the Lillian Benham Library in Lockeport on Wednesday, Nov. 3.

Tim Wynne-Jones during a program at the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth.

Library Card Month Generates Lots Of Buzz

This year's Library Card Month campaign at WCRL exceeded its goal of 500 new members by 50 percent, registering 754 new members. The campaign got a significant boost from Transcontinental Media, publisher of the western region's English language newspapers, which enhanced its sponsorship of Library Card Month. Full colour graphics improved the look of this year's campaign, which ran throughout the month of October. In the past, new and renewing members had the chance to win one of three one-year subscriptions to the *Shelburne Coast Guard*, *Yarmouth Vanguard* or *Digby Courier*. This year the company also donated gifts for special contests. All Nova Scotia Community College students in Yarmouth, Shelburne and Digby counties were eligible to win a Zenith DVD player by getting a new free library card or renewing a membership.

WCRL hosted a special card registration campaign at Yarmouth's Burridge Campus. The campaign pitted students in one faculty against those from others. They all vied for the chance to win four tickets to a Yarmouth Motor Mart Mariners Junior A hockey game, courtesy of the *Yarmouth Vanguard*. The Library registered 248 NSCC students during the campaign.

Librarian Deborah Little passes Yarmouth Motor Mart Mariners goalie Matt Anthony his WCRL card during a card registration drive at the Burridge Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College.

WCRL's focus on post-secondary students this year is in addition to its past promotions at elementary schools. Those schools once again had a chance to win one of two boxes of books donated by Scholastic Inc. Five schools registered 100 percent of staff and students.

Public Library Week was held in conjunction with Library Card Month with events such a Library Celebrity Day held in Weymouth, Barrington and Yarmouth. *Read To Me!* Jamboree celebrations for families with young children were held in every branch during the same period.

Amirault New NSLA President

WCRL Director Trudy Amirault has been elected president of the Nova Scotia Library Association. Trudy assumed her position during the organization's annual conference in Debert on Sunday, Oct. 24.

During the weekend conference, Virginia Stoddard, a former Deputy Director at WCRL, was honoured with the NSLA Award of Merit for distinguished service. The award follows her retirement on May 28, 2004 after 34 years of service.

Partnering To Provide Stroke Resource Information

WCRL has partnered with the Yarmouth Stroke Project to distribute stroke resource information to people affected by stroke and their caregivers. Libraries in Yarmouth and Pubnico will be the first to have the free stroke information packages, prepared by the Yarmouth Stroke Project, available

for distribution. The packages contain resource information specific to Yarmouth County. Program Coordinator Debra Foote -Browett hopes to have similar information packages available for distribution in Shelburne and Digby counties. As well, copies of *Let's Talk About Stroke*, an information guide for persons with stroke and their families, have been donated. They will be catalogued and available for loan throughout the library system.

Library Director Trudy Amirault says libraries are perfectly positioned to partner with non-profit health groups to distribute health information. Amirault stated "Adding these materials to public library collections ensures access and a broader circulation to the general public." The Yarmouth Stroke Project is an ambitious attempt to identify and address care issues that impact people living with strokes in rural parts of Canada. Project proponents hope to develop a care model that can be used throughout the country.

Yarmouth Stroke Project Program Coordinator Debra Foote-Browett hands Yarmouth library clerk Marsha O'Hanley one of dozens of stroke packages the Library distributed. While WCRL's Director Trudy Amirault holds a stack of donated stroke literature to be catalogued and available for loan.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY (SLIS)

The faculty and staff of the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) would like to congratulate this year's winners of the graduating class prizes, awarded at a luncheon following the convocation ceremony on May 27. The Atlantic Provinces Library Association Award, for the student who, in the opinion of faculty, shows the most professional promise was presented to Sophie Walker. The Director's Award for the highest academic achievement was won by Michele Hilton Boon. M. J. D'Elia was awarded the Louis Vagianos Medal, given to the student who best combines the capacity for blending originality with practical thinking and the courage to seek solutions to professional problems outside the mainstream. The Ann Galler Award, for the student who demonstrates the greatest interest and achievement in the area of special libraries, was presented to Shely Henry. The Leadership Award for significant service to the overall programme of the School was won by Elizabeth Millar. The J. Clement Harrison International Award was presented by Alice Harrison to Beth Gerstenberger. This award is given to a worthy international member of the graduating class, or to any other graduating student who has demonstrated a strong interest in and commitment to librarianship and information studies outside North America.

The Associated Alumni of the School of Library and Information Studies are very pleased to announce that Judy Dunn is the recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award for the year 2004. Judy is an integral member of the Dalhousie SLIS team and her contributions to the School are many and varied. As the Programme/Graduate Coordinator, Ms. Dunn coordinates all programme matters relating to students, contributes extensively to School committees, develops and manages the School's Web site and student/alumni database, manages all of the School's computer facilities, administers alumni surveys and co-edits the School's annual newsletter.

SLIS is pleased to announce that Dr. Fiona A. Black has been appointed as Director of the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) for a five-year term beginning 1st July 2004. Dr. Black has been the Acting Director of SLIS since January, 2003.

Stephen Abram has been appointed Visitor-in-Residence to SLIS and spent October 19-22 in the School as a resource and advisor for students in the Master of Library and Information Studies programme. Among other activities, he will meet with students individually and in groups to offer advice on career options, and based on his extensive experience, will outline ideas about developments in the field. On the evening of October 21, Mr. Abram and Ian Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, spoke on the topic *Inspiring Learning in Libraries: A Synthesis of People, Information and Technology*. The event was part of SLIS's public lecture series and was co-sponsored by Dalhousie University Libraries.

DALHOUSIE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI ANNUAL FALL RECEPTION

The SLIS Associated Alumni Fall Welcome Reception on October 6 was billed as *An Evening of Celebration*. The mood was festive as a large crowd of alumni, faculty, students and friends of the Dalhousie University School of Library and Information Studies gathered in the Great Hall of the Faculty Club to honour Judy Dunn, recipient of the 2004 Outstanding Alumni Award.

In presenting the 2004 Outstanding Alumni Award to Judy Dunn, Michelle Paon, Associated Alumni Chair, noted the depth of Judy's commitment to students during her tenure with the School as Programme/Graduate Coordinator. This theme was echoed by Dalhousie President Tom Traves who made a special tribute to Ms Dunn.

SLIS Director, Fiona Black, recognised several student award winners including the Associated Alumnae Scholarship winner for 2004/2005, MariBeth Slade. The Alumnae Association presented the School with a cheque, demonstrating the success of fundraising efforts over the past year.

Ann K. Symons, Past President of the Amercian Library Association, concluded the evening with a public lecture on *The Value of Leadership: How*

to Get it and How to Use It. Ms Symons took an innovative approach in her presentation, enlisting a trio of SLIS students for their own views on great leaders and the qualities of leadership. Smitty Miller, Holly James and Emilie Dawe added real value and played their role with style, leaving the audience with an effective reminder of the quality of SLIS students.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Nova Scotia's public libraries look back on a banner year. The recently released annual report shows the provincial public library system saw a 20-percent increase in visits in 2003-04 and a 10-percent increase in online visits.

The 2003-04 Nova Scotia Provincial Library/Nova Scotia Public Libraries Annual Report is now available on-line at www.library.ns.ca. Print copies are also available upon request.

TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

The Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia, in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and Learning Resources & Technology, have released the second edition of the *Trustee Handbook*. Accompanying the print handbook, is a CD containing a *pdf* version of the handbook and a power point presentation covering the roles and responsibilities of Nova Scotia's regional library boards. A copy of the print handbook and the CD will be given to each member of a regional library board.

A copy of the handbook is available online at **www.library.ns.ca**. A limited number of print copies and CDs are available upon request.

TELECONFERENCES AND AUDIO CONFERENCES

This fall the Nova Scotia Provincial Library hosted a number of audio conferences from the Education Institute : the Learning programs of the BCLA-LAA-OLA-SLA Partnership. These 60 minute sessions were on a variety of interesting topics which included *Selecting Graphic Novels for Children and Young Adults*, *Helping Boys Find Entry Points to Reading*, *People Will Change: Transforming Organizational Culture*, *Smart Search Update with Rita Vine*, *Serving Seniors*, *Getting Started in Internet Genealogy*, *Power of the Brand: Its Yours to Use @ Your Library* and *Library Marketing that Works*. The sessions were attended by staff from public, university, school and special libraries.

A College of DuPage teleconference on *The Role of Teaching in Modern Libraries* was hosted at the Provincial Library on November 19. Following the teleconference Laura Jantek, Virtual Library Manager, Halifax Public Libraries, and Tanja Harrison, Academic Librarian, Vaughan Memorial Library, Acadia University, spoke about projects that they have been involved in that illustrate the expanded role of teaching for librarians. Laura told the group about Halifax Public Libraries' IT Skills Project, which involved the development of pre-packaged programs that staff can use to teach the public about IT-related topics. Tanja demonstrated the tutorial *You Quote It, You Note It!* which librarians at Acadia University have created in cooperation with the Acadia Institute for Teaching and Technology and she told the group about the background for this project and plans for future tutorials.

Additional audio conferences and College of DuPage teleconferences are scheduled for winter and spring 2005. Here is a list of what is coming up. More information will be sent out about each of these closer to the time that it takes place. To register for any of the sessions contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca or phone 424-2477.

- Education Institute audio conference: *The Blogging Explosion -- Libraries & Weblogs*. Instructor: Darlene Fichter, Library Data Coordinator, University of Saskatchewan Library. Tuesday, January 18, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- College of DuPage teleconference: *Dealing with Difficult People (Soaring to Excellence series)*. Speaker: Debra Wilcox Johnson. Friday, January 21st , 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- College of DuPage teleconference: *Library Marketing: Tips & techniques (Library Challenges & Opportunities series)*. Panelists: Buff Hirko, Statewide Virtual Reference Project Coordinator at Washington State Library; Howard McGinn, Dean of Libraries at Seton Hall University; Linda Wallace, Library Communication Strategies, Inc., formerly head of ALA's public Information office. Friday, February 18, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Education Institute audio conference: *Taking Your Career to the Next Level*. Instructor: Caitlin Williams, President, Successful Working Women and Work Matters, Inc. Wednesday, March 9, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- College of DuPage teleconference: *Reference Tools for the Information Age (Soaring to Excellence series)*. Speakers: TBA. Friday, March 11, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- College of DuPage teleconference: *Library as Place: Where People Want to Be (Library Challenges & Opportunities series)*. Panelists: William Miller, Director of Libraries at Florida Atlantic University;Douglas Zyskowski, Director of the Southfield (Michigan) Public Library, and Ed Rivenburgh, Director of Libraries at SUNY Geneseo. Friday, March 18, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Education Institute audio conference: *TAG: You're It!: Starting and Running a Successful Teen Advisory Group*. Instructor: Lisa Heggum, Youth Services Librarian, Toronto Public Library. Thursday, April 28th, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- College of DuPage teleconference: *Library Hot Topics: Discussions and Interviews (Library Challenges & Opportunities series)*. Speakers: TBA. Friday, April 29, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Education Institute audio conference: *Smart Search Update with Rita Vine*. Thursday, May 5, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

- Education Institute audio conference: *Getting Started in Statistics: An Introduction to Finding and Using Web Resources.* Instructor: Rita Vine. Thursday, June 2, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (NSLA) AWARD OF MERIT

On October 23, 2004 Virginia Stoddard, Western Counties Regional Library's former Deputy Director was the recipient of the NSLA Award of Merit.

Virginia retired on May 28, 2004 following 34 years of service at Western Counties Regional Library. Her career has mirrored the development of regional public libraries in Nova Scotia and also the maturation of the Nova Scotia Library Association.

As one of the founding members of NSLA, Virginia also served as Secretary for the first two years. In subsequent years, Virginia worked tirelessly as a committee member and supporter of the organization. She was a member or convenor of five NSLA Conference Program and Local Arrangement Committees, beginning in 1973 with the first NSLA Conference in Yarmouth, and including the 2002 Conference once again held in Yarmouth. Virginia was also a conference presenter on a number of occasions, with topics ranging from effective artwork and posters in libraries to the Smart Library project.

During her career at Western Counties Regional Library, Virginia rose from her initial position as bookmobile clerk to Deputy Director. She joined the library only six months after its establishment as a region. Virginia worked in clerical positions until 1974, at which time she attended the Dalhousie School of Library Service receiving her MLS in 1976. In her years of service, Virginia oversaw operations for all 10 branches of the system at one time or another and was also responsible for the Direct Mail Service, headquarters, website and automation services. She served on a number of provincial committees, including the Reference Contacts Group, the Automation Working Group and the Talking Books Committee (which she chaired). Virginia was instrumental in the development of the IT Expo which took place in Yarmouth in 2003. Along with Charlotte Janes of Annapolis Valley Regional Library, she developed the Smart Libraries website which has garnered national interest and acclaim.

Virginia's retirement is truly the end of an era for Nova Scotia libraries. She was there in the pioneering days of both the regional library system and NSLA, and has continued to contribute with insight and energy for more than thirty years.

We wish Virginia many years of health and happiness as she begins the next chapter in her career!

Left to right: Virgina Stoddard receives the Nova Scotia Library Association Award of Merit from past president Peggy Hiscock during a ceremony held in Debert in October. The former Deputy Director at WCRL retired last May after 34 years of service with the organization.

NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 1ST NORMAN HORROCKS AWARD FOR LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

The first Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership was presented to Michael Colborne on October 24, 2004 at NSLA's 2004 Annual Conference. This award, established to honor leadership in the Nova Scotia Library Community, is given by NSLA for distinguished contributions to the promotion and development of library service in Nova Scotia.

Michael Colborne, the first recipient of this prestigious award, is presently the Co-ordinator of User Services at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. He is a well-known leader in the Nova Scotia Library Community and has distinguished himself as a tireless promoter and developer of library services over the past 20 years. Michael's work has been accomplished primarily through the Public Library System, but he constantly strives to include members of all types of libraries and the larger community in his efforts.

Michael has been described as "consultative, community-involved, helpful and supportive". He is an outstanding role model for all library workers in Nova Scotia and a most deserving candidate of the first Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership.

Left to right: Norman Horrocks, Erica Smith, NSLA President, Michael Colborne and Trudy Amirault, NSLA Vice-President.

READ TO ME! JAMBOREES CELEBRATES BOOKS AND BABIES

Between October 12 and 15, 36 public libraries in Nova Scotia hosted *Read to Me!* Jamborees. The well attended Jamborees, organized jointly by Nova Scotia Public Libraries and the *Read to Me!* Nova Scotia Family Literacy Program were celebrations of books and babies that featured stories, songs and rhymes for babies, toddlers and their families. Parents were encouraged to visit their local library, register their child for their very own library card and experience the exciting baby programs and resources available around the province.

Linda Arsenault, Community Services Librarian with the Pictou Antigonish Regional Library, invited families to enjoy their local Jamborees, "Babies and books go together like milk and cookies," she stated, encouraging families to "grow together with their public libraries." Children's author and *Read to Me!* Honourary Spokesperson,Sheree Fitch attended Jamboree celebrations in Wolfville and Halifax, where parents and tots crowded around to listen to her lively poetry and rhymes, as well as enjoy the highlights of the baby programs.

The *Read to Me! Program*, developed to address low literacy rates, provides books for all babies born in Nova Scotia. "Reading begins at birth," says Program Director Carol McDougall, "starting early with books helps babies develop the brain and language connections needed for reading. Right from birth, babies love to be cuddled, look at bright pictures in books and listen to the rhythm and bounce in rhymes." The *Read to Me! Program* meets with parents at the hospital bedside as soon as babies are born and provides a bright yellow bag of books and reading resources. The program also connects families to the important literacy resources available in the community – resources like the public library and books for baby programs.

A *Read to Me!* launch was held at the Valley Regional Hospital on October 12, completing the hospital partnerships in this provincial literacy initiative. On that morning, AVRL held a special *Read to Me!* Jamboree celebration for babies and preschoolers and their families at the Wolfville Memorial Library. Sheree Fitch, spokesperson for the *Read To Me! Program* was the special guest at the Jamboree, adding an exciting and enthusiastic aspect to the morning! In conjunction with the launch, AVRL decided to host *Read-To-Me Week*. Day cares and nursery schools across the valley were provided with handouts for the children about visiting the library and receiving a card, with special draws taking place that week. Each library branch drew for a children 's book, with one regional draw for 2 sets of 4 tickets to the Robert Munsch performances at the Rebecca Cohn on October 23.

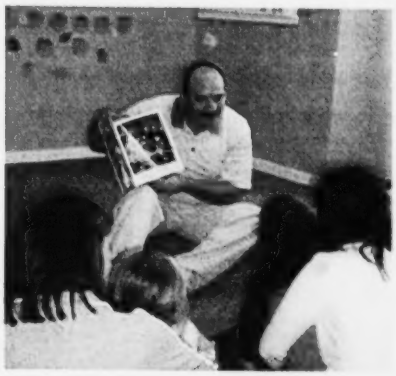
Author Sheree Fitch helps this young library patron with her Mabel Murple mask at the Wolfville Memorial Library during the Library's *Read to Me!* Jamboree.

CBRL hosted *Read to Me!* Jamborees in celebration of the *Read to Me! Family Literacy Program* at the McConnell Library (Sydney), the Wilfred Oram Library (North Sydney) and the Glace Bay Library (Glace Bay). The McConnell Library held their Jamboree the morning of Wednesday, October 20 when a large crowd of over fifty parents, caregivers and children enjoyed sharing stories, songs, rhymes and playtime.

Celebrations at the McConnell Library's *Read to Me!* Jamboree.

The hospital-based *Read to Me! Family Literacy Program* is now province wide and babies, tots, moms and dads gathered at three of CEHRL's branches to celebrate! Working from the 11 hospitals that offer maternity services, program volunteers provide all newborns and their families with a gift bag containing board books, a video showing how to read to a baby, an invitation to join the public library, a CD of lullabies and other resources. The library celebrations included prizes of books, an apron and a special *Read to Me!* bag all provided by the *Read to Me!* project. Each baby in attendance also received a board book, courtesy of the *Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program*. In Truro, a family from Australia dropped in and little Grace and her parents were given a *Read to Me!* bag to take back home.

Baby Grace and her mother share a moment during the *Read to Me!* Jamboree at the Truro Library.



Randall Amero, from Lewis Sawmill Ltd., reads to children during the *Read to Me!* Jamboree at Weymouth Library.

LINKed

In 1996 the United Nations proclaimed November 21 to be World Television Day to commemorate the first World Television Forum held on this date. The purpose of this day is to encourage a global exchange of television programs, especially those that educate about the world and people around us and focus on peace, security and economic and social development. This is a perfect occasion to feature some sites which will be useful in answering reference questions about the history of television as well as questions about details of current and past television programs.

The Directory of CBC Television Series, 1952-1982 can be found at **http://www.film.queensu.ca/CBC/** on the Queen's University Department of Film Studies web site. You can search by title, keyword or year, or click on *complete text version* to browse the directory. Descriptions with relevant details for each series are given.

The Academy of Canadian Cinema and TV Awards Database at **http://www.academy.ca/hist/history.cfm** has Gemini awards for English Canadian TV from 1986 and French Canadian TV from 1987 on. You can search by person's name, production title and category.

The Museum of Broadcast Communications, Chicago, has the full text *Encyclopedia of Television* on its web site at **http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/index.html**. You can click on a letter to browse the encyclopedia. There are over a thousand essays on programs, people, history of television, controversial issues and broadcasting systems around the world. Essays are accompanied by photos, bibliographies and links to other pertinent material in the encyclopedia.

TV Acres at **http://www.tvacres.com/** has a huge collection of TV trivia. There is everything to do with television at this site which is owned and maintained by Jerome A. Holst, a librarian. It is a handy guide to characters, places and things that appeared on television programs broadcast from the 1940s to the present. The *TV Resources* section has links to information on topics such as Theme Songs, Toys & Collectibles, Museums & TV History. There is also a very detailed site index. The search area has *Search Tips* and *Do's and Don't Examples* which add to its usefulness. The only drawback to this site is that it has quite a bit of advertising which can be distracting.

TV Tome at **http://tvtome.com/** is a very comprehensive guide to episodes of past and present television series. The creators of the site rely on volunteers working under the guidance of the site webmaster to add information on their favorite programs and stars. To locate shows, use the search box or you can browse by clicking on *All Shows*. In addition, there are entries on over 250,000 actors, writers, directors and producers which you can search for. This site also has advertising which pops up and is a distraction at times.

Web sites which were featured in previous *Linked* columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the provincial Library web site **http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm**. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column, please contact Carol Morris at **morrisca@gov.ns.ca**.

PROFESSIONAL COLUMN

In this month's column, two recent additions to the professional collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan. Please send requests via email to inshpl at **inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca** (or tel:902-424-2479 / fax:902-424-0633).

Anderson, Rick - *Buying and contracting for resources and services : a how-to-do-it manual for librarians*. New York : Neal-Schuman Publishers, c2004. Call #: PROF 025 .2 And

This book is intended for librarians recently encountering or about to encounter the business side of acquisition librarianship. The author describes service and vendor-relations issues, proceeding from the establishment and maintenance of relationships through the issues that arise from the termination of relationships, through ethical issues of vendor behavior and library policy.

Rivers, Vickie - T*he branch librarians' handbook*. Jefferson, N.C. : McFarland & Co, 2004. Call # : PROF 025 .1974 Riv

This book is designed to answer your questions about branch library management and to offer encouragement. It covers a wide variety of issues that the branch librarian might need to deal with every day. Chapters are devoted to mission statements, library systems, boards of trustees, friends of libraries, administration, bosses, professionalism, professional organizations, time management, effective supervision, staff, security guards, computer databases, couriers, branch management, collection development, service desks, homeschoolers, homeless patrons, problem patrons and the community programming and outreach. This book is intended to give managers a single source for help in dealing with issues that will arise in the course of their duties.

Credits go to:

Peggy Hiscock, Finance and Fundraising Manager, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library
Shanda LaRamee, Regional Coordinator, *Read to Me! Family Literacy Program*

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